

Cindy Steffensen as Margaret Sowers

Good afternoon—my name is Margaret Sowers. I'm here to tell you a little about myself and my husband James. Dr. James H. Sowers—Doc Sowers to most folks.

James and I were married in 1943. We have 2 daughters, Ann and Mary Alice --both grown up now.

James graduated from the University of Iowa in 1912 with his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. He loved taking me and the girls back to his alma mater for football games.

Ann was a great swimmer. She was a lifeguard at the pool -the old pool, not the one you have now. She organized a swim team when Lester Jenkins was pool manager. I tell you, that girl lived at the pool. She broke her nose diving too deep one time.

And Mary Alice, our baby—bright and beautiful with a head full of curls and a bent for mischief. Yes, those girls were the joy of our life.

After James served his time in the army, he started his practice in Buffalo Center. His office was over that old building that burned. Then he moved to the front of the Iowa Theater and finally downstairs in the new Tribune building. What a nice new building. I imagine he and George Carman had some interesting conversations in the back room down there.

Not all the dentists that came to Buffalo Center were even licensed but, the University of Iowa has trained many who practiced here in Buffalo Center—Tjode Grothaus, the Drs Johnson, Drs . Winter. Maybe others—that's all I can think of right now.

On hot summer days, Mary Alice and her little friends would sneak down the stairs and play on the cool basement floor in the waiting room. I liked those days when the girls would bring their friends home and have an oatmeal raisin cookie before running out to play.

I worked during those years for Wilson's Stores. Wilson's sold groceries and dry goods and I certainly enjoyed working with Red and Ruth Wilson and Delores Donnelly and seeing all those nice folks.

About 1967 or '68 James took ill and had to quit his dentistry practice. He passed on in 1970 and I later moved to Forest City to spend my time working at Skogmos. I think I sold your mother a dress or two.

Tell her hello—give her my love. It's been so long since I've seen you all.